

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 1 with the following claim:

1. (Twice Amended) A control and safety device allowing the ejection of a strip of material from a machine for dispensing strips, the control and safety device comprising a drum (4) and a shaft (9) which shuts off a lower opening (11) through which the strip of material passes as the strip of material leaves the machine, said drum and said shaft being linked by a means of transmission (10) comprising at least one belt, characterized in that said at least one belt is mounted between said drum (4) and said shaft (9), said shaft having a central part that accommodates said at least one belt and faces a groove on said drum and said shaft having a dolly axle (9a), the dolly axle having a dimension that exceeds the width of the groove (4b) on said drum (4) so as to allow sideways, slanting deflection of the at least one belt over a limited amplitude (α), thus tracking the direction in which the strip of material is pulled longitudinally out of the machine by the user.

(Please replace claim 2 with the following claim:)

2. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that said dolly axle (9a) comprises a thickness (D1) which is less than the width of a cross-section (D2) of said shaft (9) to accommodate the at least one belt.

(Please replace claim 3 with the following claim:)

3. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dolly axle

comprises a length (L1) and the groove in said drum comprises a width (L2), the device characterized in that the length (L1) substantially exceeds the width (L2).

(Please replace claim 4 with the following claim:)

4. (Twice Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dolly axle (9a) comprises shoulders, the device characterized in that the shoulders prevent the lateral movement of the at least one belt beyond the dolly axle.

(Please replace claim 5 with the following claim:)

5. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dolly axle (9a) comprises shoulders, the device characterized in that the shoulders prevent the lateral movement of the at least one belt beyond the dolly axle.

(Please replace claim 6 with the following claim:)

6. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the dolly axle (9a) comprises shoulders, the device characterized in that the shoulders prevent the lateral movement of the at least one belt beyond the dolly axle.

(Please replace claim 7 with the following claim:)

7. (Amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one belt consists of a belt.

(Please introduce the following new claims:)

8. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of material comprises a paper material.

9. (New) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the paper material comprises a hand-wipe or toilet paper.

10. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strip of material comprises a non-paper material.

11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is mounted in a housing.

12. (New) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the housing is a wall-mounted housing.

13. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drum accommodates a strip-cutting mechanism.

14. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drum comprises a hollow drum.

15. (New) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the hollow drum accommodates a strip-cutting mechanism.